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Hurricane coverage:

1 — Texas DSHS continues aerial attack on post-Harvey mosquitoes, KRIS, 9/11/2017

<http://www.kristv.com/story/36331357/texas-dshs-continues-aerial-attack-on-post-harvey-mosquitoes>

The Texas Department of State Health Services continues with aerial mosquito spraying operations after Hurricane Harvey. In the Coastal Bend area, flights treated approximately 272,000 acres in Nueces County on Saturday.

2 — Houston's floodwaters receded, now replaced by mountains of trash, ABC News, 9/9/2017

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/houstons-floodwaters-receded-now-replaced-mountains-trash/story?id=49701487>

The floodwaters in Houston have mostly receded, but in their place stand mountains of debris. Survivors of the catastrophic flooding from Harvey have shown their eagerness to rebuild and reclaim their damaged homes by hauling outside an estimated 8 million cubic yards of sodden drywall, flooring, furniture, appliances, clothing and toys, according to The Associated Press.

3 — Texas flood shows need for chemical safety rule, advocates say, Chemical & Engineering News, 9/10/2017

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/95/i36/Texas-flood-shows-need-chemical.html>

Industrial safety advocates and Texas residents say a flood-related fires and explosions at the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas, underscores the need for a worker and community safety regulation.

4 — Residents still wait for flood water to recede in west Houston, KHOU, 9/10/2017

<http://www.khou.com/news/local/residents-still-wait-for-flood-water-to-recede-in-west-houston/472654690>

While many homeowners are focused on ripping out drywall and cleaning out their houses in the aftermath of Harvey, some neighborhoods in west Houston are still underwater.

5 — Orange Co. updates evacuation order, Beaumont Enterprise, 9/10/2017

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/orangecounty/article/Evacuation-order-lifted-for-Orange-County-12187001.php>

A mandatory evacuation order for low-lying parts of Orange County issued on Aug. 31 has been lifted, the county announced in a statement. The county-wide curfew from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. is still in effect until further notice, according to the Orange County Emergency Management office.

6 — EDITORIAL: Time for EPA to order complete removal of San Jacinto Waste Pits, Baytown Sun, 9/10/2017

http://baytownsun.com/opinion/editorials/article_e0177442-9613-11e7-880e-d7c22778739b.html

We were warned and failed to act. After Harvey, we must. Environmentalists have said for years the San Jacinto Waste Pits — filled with decades-old paper bleaching waste — was vulnerable to flooding with the risk that waters would spread sediment heavily contaminated with cancer-causing dioxins.

7 — OPINION: Fight flooding now, Houston Chronicle, 9/10/2017

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Ovink-We-can-learn-from-the-Dutch-and-work-with-12185660.php>

Because of climate change, we can expect weather events like Harvey to become more frequent and more extreme. We will see longer periods of drought, more intense hurricanes and more disastrous floods. We need to prepare ourselves for that future.



Texas DSHS continues aerial attack on post-Harvey mosquitoes

Posted: Sep 10, 2017 2:11 PM CDT
Updated: Sep 10, 2017 2:28 PM CDT

The Texas Department of State Health Services continues with aerial mosquito spraying operations after Hurricane Harvey.

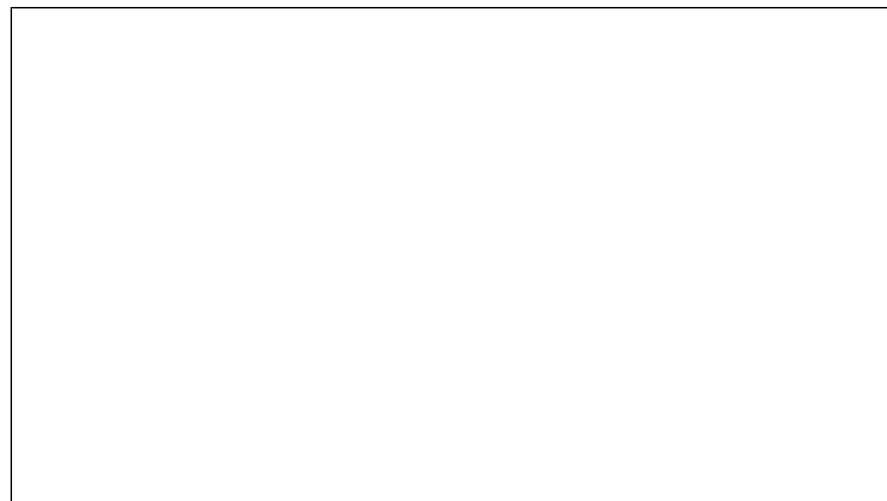
In the Coastal Bend area, flights treated approximately 272,000 acres in Nueces County on Saturday.

Sunday night, crews plan to begin spraying over Jackson County, moving on to parts of DeWitt and Lavaca counties, time and weather permitting.

Along the upper coast, Texas is receiving support from the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing flying modified C-130 cargo planes staged out of Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. In their first night of spraying, they covered 102,000 acres over Jefferson and Orange counties and expect to be working over Jefferson, Orange and Chambers counties for at least the next two nights before moving on other parts of the region.



A C-130H Hercules aircraft, modified for the DOD's only aerial spray mission. USAF photo/Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.



A total of approximately 857,000 acres have been sprayed across the two areas.

The goal is to reduce the effects mosquitoes are having on recovery efforts and the possibility of a future increase in mosquito-borne disease.

During aerial spraying, a small amount of insecticide is sprayed over a large area, one to two tablespoons per acre. When applied according to label instructions by a licensed professional, it does not pose a health risk to people, pets or the environment.

According to the EPA, people may prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors when spraying takes place, but it is not necessary.

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Volume 95 Issue 36 | p. 14

Issue Date: September 11, 2017

Texas flood shows need for chemical safety rule, advocates say

Activists point to fires at Arkema plant

By *Jeff Johnson*



Arkema's plant in Crosby, Texas, flooded and lost power in Tropical Storm Harvey.

Credit: Adrees Latif/REUTERS/Newscom

Industrial safety advocates and Texas residents say a flood-related fires and explosions at the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas, underscores the need for a worker and community safety regulation.

Issued by the Obama Administration in **January** <<http://cen.acs.org/articles/95/i1/EPA-issues-long-delayed-chemical.html>> and blocked by the Trump Environmental Protection

Agency in March <<http://cen.acs.org/articles/95/i12/EPA-chief-delays-industrial-chemical.html>> , that regulation would require chemical safety improvements at industrial plants.

If fully implemented, the new regulation would require greater public disclosure from companies that use large amounts of certain chemicals, notes Yvette Arellano, spokesperson with **TEJAS** <<http://tejasbarrios.org/>> , the Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, a community-based nonprofit. The rule would also call for firms to conduct root-cause analysis after an accident, she adds.

When it postponed the regulation, EPA reopened discussions of what the final rule should require. This reexamination won't be complete until February 2019, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has said.

Pruitt attributed the delay to opposition to the rule from companies. Among them is Arkema, which **filed comments** <<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OEM-2015-0725-0526>> against the regulation. Several states, labor unions, and community groups **are challenging** <<http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3987390-2017-09-01-ACS-Sci-Hub-Filings-Default-Judgment.html>> EPA's move in court. Chemical companies and some other states, on the other hand, are backing Pruitt.

Advocates say the rule, if implemented, would have made a difference when Tropical Storm Harvey brought heavy rains that flooded the Crosby plant and killed backup electricity generators used to maintain refrigeration of some 225 metric tons of organic peroxides at the facility. The reactive peroxides decompose with heat, and at Arkema, they began to burn. Government officials arranged for the remaining stock of these chemicals to be set on fire.

If the regulation had been in place, says Gretchen Goldman of the Union of Concerned Scientists, the public and emergency responders would have had more information about Arkema's substances. Also, the rule would have required the company to investigate and possibly implement safer alternatives to its current chemicals and manufacturing approaches, she adds.

As required under the Clean Air Act, Arkema filed a risk management plan with EPA that identifies the potential effects of a chemical accident, lays out steps the facility is taking to prevent an accident, and spells out emergency response procedures should an accident occur. The plan is required for companies that handle certain extremely hazardous chemicals

and is to be updated every five years. Arkema did not consider the decomposition of the organic peroxides in its plan because these chemicals are not covered by risk management plans. The U.S. Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) since 2002 has recommended that EPA require companies to include peroxides and other reactive chemicals in risk management plans, but the agency has not done so.

CSB is investigating the Arkema accident.

At a Sept. 4 briefing, Rich Rowe, CEO of Arkema's North American operations, was reluctant to discuss what the company could have done differently to avoid the accident. He said Arkema will examine "the way we prepared and the decisions we made." He pledged to work with CSB.

Chemical & Engineering News

ISSN 0009-2347

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Residents still wait for flood water to recede in west Houston

KHOU.com and Kristina Rex , KHOU 12:43 PM. CDT September 10, 2017



WEST HOUSTON - While many homeowners are focused on ripping out drywall and cleaning out their houses in the aftermath of Harvey, some neighborhoods in west Houston are still underwater.

It's been two weeks since people woke up to find their homes and streets completely flooded, and for neighbors on Clear Spring Drive that is still the case.

"This is like going to a funeral every day," resident Hal Lynde said about returning to the flooded homes every day.

They have a boat launch for people to row back to their homes. Cars can still be seen submerged in the water.

Many in the neighborhood feel like they are behind the curve compared to the rest of Houston. Some haven't even been back to work yet.

"I hadn't been emotional at all," said Doug Hall, a resident. "But when you see people coming, acknowledging that yeah we see what's happening ... you start realizing that a lot of people care and a lot of people want to help. It's kind of humbling."

A lot of residents whose homes have dried out say they will be spending their Saturday inside removing dry wall and furniture to start the long road to recovery.

And with Hurricane Irma barreling toward Florida, some worry about the nation's attention and relief dollars being divided between two storms.

"The national news isn't going to be here anymore. The dollars are going to be coming here anymore," Lynde said.

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Time for EPA to order complete removal of San Jacinto Waste Pits

Posted: Sunday, September 10, 2017 12:00 am

We were warned and failed to act.

After Harvey, we must.

Environmentalists have said for years the San Jacinto Waste Pits — filled with decades-old paper bleaching waste — was vulnerable to flooding with the risk that waters would spread sediment heavily contaminated with cancer-causing dioxins.

“I think this is a loaded gun, in terms of a catastrophe. Not just to the residences, but the bay as a whole,” Sam Brody of Texas A&M University Galveston said in 2013 about the threat of a hurricane or flood to the capped waste pits. Why? Because soil from the waste pits contains dioxins and other long-lasting toxins linked to birth defects and cancer.



Sun editorial

Did Harvey's record rainfall set more poison free?

No doubt. Hurricane Harvey's floodwaters spread uncontrollable toxic materials over a wider area, making a tragic situation worse.

The waste pits were completely covered with floodwaters. The AP reported that the flow from the raging river washing over the toxic site was so intense it damaged an adjacent section of the Interstate 10 bridge.

In 2011, a temporary cap was installed on the waste pits but was damaged during a relatively minor storm in 2012. Since then, the waste pits cap has required extensive repairs on at least six occasions, with large sections becoming displaced or going missing.

No doubt Harvey's record rainfall set more poison free.

Even before Harvey, studies found significantly higher rates of cancer and respiratory illness among those living along the Houston Ship Channel and San Jacinto River. Among the waste in the pits are lead, mercury, PCBs, and dioxin compounds, including the infamous Agent Orange.

The pits have been leaking for years, capped or not.

For more than four decades, toxic wastes from the San Jacinto River Waste Pits have drained into our environment, harming public health and contaminating Galveston Bay.

Harvey only adds an exclamation point to the dangers posed by the waste pits; dangers too serious to continue to ignore.

The EPA is set to make a final decision this year about a proposed \$97 million cleanup effort.

The only true safeguard the community, the environment and our children from the toxics contained in the pits is to remove the waste pits, and all their contents.

The health and safety of the families and ecosystem around the waste pits depend on it.

—David Bloom



Ovink: We can learn from the Dutch and work with nature

By **Henk Ovink** | September 9, 2017

1

Because of climate change, we can expect weather events like Harvey to become more frequent and more extreme. We will see longer periods of drought, more intense hurricanes and more disastrous floods. We need to prepare ourselves for that future. After disasters we usually focus on rebuilding, perhaps improving things a bit as we do so. Just as armies tend to fight the last

war, we base our planning on past disasters rather than preparing for new and more dangerous ones.

In my country, the Netherlands, we've been learning how to live with water for over a thousand years. We elected our first water regulators in the 12th century. We had water experts before we were a kingdom, and now we have a king who is a globally respected expert on water policy. Living with water is part of our culture.

Climate disasters are primarily water disasters, and the greatest risks involve water as well. In a warming climate, droughts, rains and storms will become more frequent and more intense. We have to acknowledge that future and build resilient, adaptive cities capable of protecting themselves from climate change's stresses. We will need to change our lifestyle, from how we work to how we play. Most important, we will have to change how we think.

The Dutch philosophy is to work with nature, not against it. In our cities we build parks that serve as natural reservoirs. On the coast, underground parking garages serve the same function. We use boardwalks and beaches to protect our coastline.

Earlier this decade, the city of Nijmegen spent half a billion dollars to dig a new, wider channel for the Waal River that allowed room for it to flood without sending water into the surrounding neighborhoods. It made the city safer, and all that new green space increased the quality of life.

TRANSLATOR

To read this article in one of Houston's most-spoken languages, click on the button below.

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EDITORIALS

A screenshot of a Texas Voter Registration Application form. The form includes sections for 'These Questions Must Be Completed Before Proceeding', 'Personal Information', 'Residential Address', and 'Voting Address'. It contains checkboxes for various eligibility criteria and fields for personal details like name, date of birth, and address.

Dereliction of duty on a scholastic level



Stoff: Giving children perspective about 9/11.



Krugman: 'Dreamers' and untruths about economics, jobs



Monday letters: Flood risks, our Texas, blame is obvious

Fight flooding now

In 2013, as a member of President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, I created a design competition that brought some of the most creative people in the world to New York. The competition produced many innovative projects that are now under construction across the region, in both Republican and Democratic counties. (After all, climate change does not discriminate between political parties.)

Even as we fortify Houston to withstand shocks and stresses, we know we can't prevent everything. We can't engineer only for the worst-case scenario, but we can plan for the worst. We can make sure our infrastructure and buildings don't collapse. We can make sure our emergency access routes don't flood. And we should make sure our most critical infrastructure—which includes hospitals, energy plants and water treatment facilities—is prepared to withstand the worst storm.

But we also need to think big. It would be a shame to let the crisis Houston just went through go to waste.

Ovink is the special envoy for international water affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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